

Message Text

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41

ORIGIN EB-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 EA-13 SS-20 SP-03 L-02

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P 271228Z P 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 213251

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, KS

SUBJ: PL 480 ASSISTANCE TO KOREA

REF: SEOUL 6284

FOR AMBASSADOR SNEIDER FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS

1. WE HAVE PROPOSED GLOBAL FY 1975 PL 480 PROGRAM OF DOLS. 1.35 BILLION, INCLUDING DOLS. 128 MILLION FOR KOREA. PRESIDENT HAS INDICATED WE WILL ATTEMPT TO MEET THIS GLOBAL LEVEL BUT, BECAUSE OF DELICATE SUPPLY AND PRICE CONDITIONS, PROGRAMMING WILL BE ON QUARTERLY BASIS. ACTUAL COUNTRY ALLOCATIONS WILL BE AFFECTED BY EVOLVING COMMODITY AVAILABILITIES DURING YEAR. ALSO, WE CAN EXPECT SOME CHANGES IN REQUIREMENTS AND PRIORITIES DURING YEAR.

2. OUR PRESENT BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT PL 480 PROGRAMMING TO KOREA DURING FY 1975 WILL BE IN RANGE DOLS. 100 MILLION AND THAT IT WILL BE LARGELY AND PERHAPS WHOLLY IN RICE.
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THIS WOULD BE 275,000 METRIC TONS AT CURRENT PRICES. WE HOPE TO PROGRAM 60,000 TONS DURING SECOND QUARTER FY 1975, BUT BULK MAY NOT MOVE UNTIL FINAL QUARTER.

3. WE EXPECT SECOND QUARTER PROGRAM DECISIONS IN NEXT TWO WEEKS.

4. ALTHOUGH I RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE TO YOU OF BEING FORTHCOMING WITH YOUR KOREAN CONTACTS, PLEASE DO NOT USE THESE FIGURES WITH THEM. IT WOULD VIOLATE THE SPIRIT OF THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO GIVE HIMSELF THE OPTION OF REDUCING PL 480 LATER IN THE YEAR, SHOULD CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE.

5. I DO THINK YOU CAN SAY THAT WE HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE A SUBSTANTIAL KOREAN PROGRAM (ALTHOUGH NO DOUBT LESS THAN THE DOLS. 154 MILLION FIGURE) BUT THAT DECISIONS WILL BE TAKEN QUARTERLY AND WE WON'T KNOW UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR HOW MUCH WE CAN PROVIDE. YOU MAY ADD THAT WE CONTINUE TO TAKE VERY SERIOUSLY KOREA'S ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, AND THIS WILL BE IMPORTANT FACTOR IN OUR DECISION MAKING. KISSINGER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** STADIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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